



Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.

TO: Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

From: Lisa Hutner, Executive Director

Date: March 22, 2010

RE: SB-484 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S REVENUE PLAN

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) strongly opposes efforts to divert funds from the state's Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funds.

These funds have provided powerful incentives to homeowners and business to move to more energy efficient products and appliances. Many of our customers are looking to incorporate solar photovoltaic (PV) technologies into their homes, schools and businesses to reduce their energy costs. In addition to saving money, more and more individuals simply want to "go green" by utilizing solar and other energy efficient products.

As an industry, electrical contractors have embraced this movement and many have taken steps to participate in the CT Clean Energy Fund Solar PV Rebate program as "Qualified Installers". Although the program, as currently administered, creates barriers for licensed electricians to become Qualified Installers, we support continued funding for the program.

We are trying to eliminate barriers for electricians to participate in the program under HB-5225, An Act Concerning Solar Work. Licensed electricians are duly authorized to install solar PV systems within the scope of their electrical license, which includes a four-year apprenticeship program including solar PV electrical work and annual continuing education requirements which include solar PV and related code changes.

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.

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